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deep interest in the religion of the country. It is inferred that the present plan of making headway for France in the country is based on the plans of Napoleon in 1798. The general characteristics of the area, the distinctive traits of the nomad population, the plan of interesting the inhabitants in works of improvement, the task of reconciling all acts to the religion of the natives and especially the difficulties with the inner court of Mohammedanism, the Senoussi, are subjects which the author carefully discusses; and the principles which the French are planning to follow as the basis of their civilizing work in Africa are stated.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

**Hunting the Elephant in Africa**, and Other Recollections of Thirteen Year's Wanderings. By Captain C. H. Stigand. With an Introduction by Colonel Theodore Roosevelt. xv and 379 pp. Ills., index. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1913. \$2.50. 9 x 6.

The title is not exactly adequate, for the book treats not only of elephant hunting but also of the rhinoceros, lion, buffalo, and bongo (a large antelope), with hints on camping and chapters on African rivers and swamps, native servants, hunting incidents, African sayings and ideas, African insects and some other topics. The work will take its place among the best of hunting books. The author is a distinguished and experienced Nimrod and field naturalist; few others have his large experience and his book is full of suggestions for other hunters. He does not pin full faith to the doctrine of protective coloration and shows that it does not play the smallest part in concealing most of the big game of Africa from their foes.

**L'Oasi di Ghat e sue Adiacenze.** Di Capitano Bourbon del Monte Santa Maria. 178 pp. Maps. Unione Arti Grafiche, Castello, 1912. 7½ x 5.

**L'Islamismo e la Confraternita dei Senussi.** Di Capitano Bourbon del Monte Santa Maria. 247 pp. Map. Unione Arti Grafiche, Castello, 1912. 7½ x 5.

The information in the first book is of a geographical and military character. The region is shown in the state in which the Turks abandoned it, and the difficulties of the Italians in attempting to restore order patterned on European ideas are mentioned.

The second contains an account of the origin and growth of the order of the Senoussi and its relation to Islam. The writer seems imbued with the spirit prevailing in French colonial circles where alleged anti-European or anti-Christian doings of the order are exaggerated, often for political purposes. He would have been nearer the truth had he tried to show that the order need not be considered a menace to the expansion of European dominion in Africa. The case of Egypt can be adduced as an example. An instructive map shows the distribution of Senoussi centers in Northeastern Africa.

LEON DOMINIAN.

**Notes Ethnographiques sur les peuples communément appelés Bakuba, ainsi que sur les peuplades apparentées. Les Bushongo.**

Par E. Torday et T. A. Joyce. Maps, ills., index. 291 pp. *Ann. du Mus. du Congo Belge*, Tome 2, Fasc. 1. Falk fils, Brussels, 1910. 14 x 11.

We have here a very detailed and careful study of the Bushongo race of the Belgian Congo as manifested in one of its ramifications, the Bakuba people. Rigidly pursuing a method which makes for great accuracy of observation he has written in this report a record of the people which will leave scant gleanings for those who come after. While giving deserved praise to the definitely ethnological work in this volume it is permissible to record a note upon the linguistic collections. There is presented a very large mass of vocabulary material of the Bushongo and the Lumbila arranged after the usual manner. When we reflect upon the great strides made in ethnography, largely by reason of the Cambridge system of learning what to observe, we must feel that the time is ripe for a similar syllabus of the

system of languages below the inflected class so that it may be made possible to coordinate the large mass of vocabularies. Nothing can be more clear than that these vocabularies result in clouding confusion so long as the collectors are wholly untrained in the grammatical life of the speech of isolation and agglutination.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

**Anthropological Report on the Ibo-Speaking Peoples of Nigeria.**

By Northcote W. Thomas. Part I: Law and Custom of the Ibo of the Awka Neighbourhood, S. Nigeria. 161 pp. Maps, ills., index. Part II: English-Ibo and Ibo-English Dictionary. vi and 391 pp. Part III: Proverbs, Narratives, Vocabularies and Grammar. vi and 199 pp. Harrison & Sons, London, 1913. 9 x 6 each.

These volumes, with the companion study of the Edo (*Bull.*, Vol. 44, p. 697) by the same author, illustrate the growth of the difference in European attitude toward the affairs of Africa. From the same region we note the first essay toward the comprehension of the African, the slim pamphlet published in Boston under mission auspices more than two generations ago, the grammar and vocabulary of the Yoruba. Ibo and Edo are now seen to be rather considerable language groups included within the area formerly classed as Yoruba, and so far as we may determine from the evidence which Mr. Thomas has presented in these very satisfactory dictionaries, the differences between Ibo and Edo on the one hand, and on the other between these languages of the lower Niger and the true Yoruba of its upper course, are far greater than may be assigned to dialectic variety. As in the case of his former study of the Edo we are impressed by the author's caution in his record of Ibo life and custom. In every note of manner and custom he is sedulous to differentiate that which he has seen, the interpretation which he makes of the thing seen, the explanation which he has received from his Nigerian companions and a further comment upon the evidential value of such testimony. The method does not make for a smooth and entertaining narrative, in fact the result is remarkably arid; but the veracity of these notes is so highly substantiated as to serve as the best apology for the absence of pictorial value. Students of folk lore will find in one of these volumes a great treasure of animal life. The principal hero is the tortoise, but the myth series is clearly of that kingdom of sentient beasts which has been introduced to this country by servile Africans and which only lately has been considered worthy of collection and study.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

## ASIA

**Studies on the Vegetation of the Transcaspiian Lowlands.**

By O. Paulsen. The Second Danish Pamir Expedition. Conducted by O. Olufsen. 279 pp. Map, ills. Gyldendalske Boghandel, Copenhagen, 1912. Kr. 4. 10 x 7.

Work of this character passes far beyond the botanical record upon which it is based. It is really the study of the vegetal control of secular geographical mutation. It is regarded as so important that one of the major projects of the research authorized by the Carnegie Institution is the maintenance of a desert laboratory in Arizona and the conduct of expeditionary investigation in the more characteristic desert formations of the world. We prefer to examine this interesting treatise in reference to this phase of geographical study. Transcaspia is a margin of that central Asian desert which we find reason to believe has been for centuries advancing upon the area of filth. In several recent works such as Sir Aurel Stein's "Desert Cathay" and Tate's "People of Seistan," we have abundant evidence that man recoils from the struggle with the aeolian advance of the desert; the whole theme has been carefully treated by Ellsworth Huntington in his study of desiccation which, debatable in some details, is commonly accepted in general. Here we find the direct evidence of the struggle of nature to resist the march of the desert, the development of resistant qualities in vegetation which may cope with desiccation and the loss of humus, the root search for water of the underflow